Sub a2

1. A method comprising:

negatively biasing a spatial light modulator; and

reversing the bias.

2. The method of claim 1 including biasing a top plate and a pixel electrode.

3. The method of claim 2 including biasing said top plate to a negative voltage.

4. The method of claim 3 including maintaining said pixel electrode at a positive voltage.

5. The method of claim 4 including biasing said pixel electrode across its full dynamic range.

6. The method of claim 1 including alternately biasing the top plate negatively and positively.

7. A spatial light modulator comprising:

a top plate;

a liquid crystal layer;

a pixel electrode, said top plate and said pixel electrode sandwiching said liquid crystal layer; and

a drive circuit to apply positive and negative bias potentials to one of said electrode and said top plate.

8. The spatial light modulator of claim 7 including a drive circuit to apply a negative bias potential to said top plate.

9. The spatial modulator of claim 7 wherein said spatial light modulator is a liquid crystal over silicon spatial light modulator.

10. The spatial light modulator of claim 7 wherein said drive circuit applies positive and negative bias potentials in alternating frames.

11. The spatial light modulator of claim 8 wherein said top plate is formed of indium tin oxide.

12. A method comprising:

applying a positive bias to a spatial light modulator in a negative frame; and

applying a negative bias to a spatial light modulator during a positive frame to reduce the magnitude of the positive voltage that is necessary to bias the spatial light modulator.

13. The method of claim 12 including biasing a top plate and a pixel electrode.

14. The method of claim 13 including biasing said top plate to a negative voltage.

15. The method of claim 14 including maintaining said pixel electrode at a positive voltage.